

Appl. No. 09/808,500
Amdt. Dated March 31, 2004
Reply to Office action of January 8, 2004
Attorney Docket No. P13472-US1
EUS/J/P/04-1084

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-9 (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) A method of monitoring the chargeable activities of a user in a mobile telecommunications network, the method comprising the steps of:

monitoring at least a first condition (C1) and a second condition (C2) on which charging is based;

normalizing said first condition against a first normalizing value (N1) and said second condition against a second normalizing value (N2), said step of normalizing comprising dividing the value of said condition by said normalizing value to yield normalized conditions;

adding said first (C1/N1) and second (C2/N2) normalized conditions to yield a total consumed charging units value; and

comparing said total consumed charging units value against a charging unit authorization limit.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said conditions include time based and data transfer volume based conditions.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said steps of monitoring and normalizing are carried out at the serving node for the user.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said mobile telecommunications network is a Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) network and said serving node is a Mobile Switching Center (MSC).

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14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said mobile telecommunications network is a Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) network or a Serving General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) Support Node (SGSN).

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein the normalizing values are transferred from a charge control function of said network, or of another network to which the user is a subscriber, either upon initiation of a chargeable activity or prior to such initiation.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein said charging unit authorization limit, which defines a cost limit up to which the user is authorized, and against which a monitored condition or combination of monitored conditions is compared, is transferred from said charge control function to said serving node.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein said user is a subscriber of a home GSM network and is roaming in a foreign GSM network, and the normalizing values are transferred from the home network to the serving node of the foreign network using the Customized Applications for Mobile Network Enhanced Logic (CAMEL) protocol.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 10, wherein at least one normalized monitored condition, or a combination of normalized monitored conditions, is compared against a predetermined value which defines a cost limit up to which the user is authorized, and, if the condition or combination of conditions reaches the predetermined value, the serving node sends an authorization request to a charge controlling node.

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19. (Previously Presented) A node of a mobile telecommunications network which serves one or more mobile users, the node comprising:

means for monitoring at least a first condition (C1) and a second condition (C2) on which charging is based;

means for normalizing said first condition against a first normalizing value (N1) and said second condition against a second normalizing value (N2), said means for normalizing comprising means for dividing the value of said condition by said normalizing value to yield normalized conditions;

means for adding said first (C1/N1) and second (C2/N2) normalized conditions to yield a total consumed charging units value; and

means for comparing said total consumed charging units value against a charging unit authorization limit.

20. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 19, wherein said conditions include time based and data transfer volume based conditions.

21. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 19, wherein the serving node monitors and normalizes said conditions.

22. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 21, wherein said mobile telecommunications network is a Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) network and said serving node is a Mobile Switching Center (MSC).

23. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 21, wherein said mobile telecommunications network is a Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) network or a Serving General Packet Radio Service (GPRS) Support Node (SGSN).

24. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 19, wherein the normalizing values are transferred from a charge control function of said network, or of another

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network to which the user is a subscriber, either upon initiation of a chargeable activity or prior to such initiation.

25. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 24, wherein said charging unit authorization limit, which defines a cost limit up to which the user is authorized, and against which a monitored condition or combination of monitored conditions is compared, is transferred from said charge control function to said serving node.

26. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 19, wherein said user is a subscriber of a home GSM network and is roaming in a foreign GSM network, and the normalizing values are transferred from the home network to the serving node of the foreign network using the Customized Applications for Mobile Network Enhanced Logic (CAMEL) protocol.

27. (Previously Presented) The node of claim 19, wherein at least one normalized monitored condition, or a combination of normalized monitored conditions, is compared against a standard value which defines a cost limit up to which the user is authorized, and, if the condition or combination of conditions reaches the standard value, the serving node sends an authorization request to a charge controlling node.